



NICE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

Chicago Area Timex Users Group
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C.A.T.U.G. CLUB OFFICERS

Here is the list of 1996 club officers and how to contact them. Our club has three strong SIGS, TS2068, Z88 and QL. If you have questions about either of these fine machines, or even the ZX81/TS1000/TS1500, call one of the officers. C=312 N=847 W=708

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Nazir Pashtoon	N439-1679	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	John Donaldson	W232-6147	Meeting Planning, etc.
Secretary	Larry Sauter	C763-5383	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Phil Kwitkowski	W584-6710	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Bob Swoger	W576-8068	Newsletter, BBS, etc.

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NICE-TIMES news

Nite-Times Information

The *Nite-Times News* is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. For an annual fee of \$12.00 you can become a CATUG member and receive four newsletters each year. Write your check payable to:

**PHIL KWITKOWSKI
2106 DOVER LN
ST CHARLES IL 60174**

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting user groups at no charge. Send all newsletter requests to:

**CATUG EDITOR BOB SWOGER
613 PARKSIDE CIRCLE
STREAMWOOD IL 60107-1647**

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

Articles originating from our group may be downloaded from our BBS and reprinted.

CLUB MEETINGS

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month at the home of our Editor, Bob Swoger, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Bob's home is located at 613 Parkside Circle in Streamwood, Illinois near Elgin. Bob should always be contacted evenings at 708/837-7957 to confirm the meeting schedule.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

**Al Feng
Phillip Kwitkowski
Larry Sauter
Bob Swoger, K9WVY**

TREASURY NOTES

The balance as of June 30th is \$400.26 Our current paid membership stands at 21.

Phillip Kwitkowski, Treasurer
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

SECRETARY'S NotePad

April 20, 1996

Members present: Larry Sauter, Nazir Pashtoon, Phillip Kwitkowski, Bob--GATOR--Swoger, and Cy Herre.

GATOR and Phillip discussed what they bought and what they could have bought at Glenside's 5th Annual "Last Chicago CoCoFEST" at the Elgin Illinois Holiday Inn. Since it wasn't a Sinclair fest, GATOR and Phil were able to shop like they were never able to shop before since they didn't have to man tables as they had to do at previous Sinclair fests. They got to socialize more also.

At the fest was Mike Carey from Tennessee who is the National Guru of MIDI for the Radio Shack Color Computer (CoCo). Mike prefers the CoCo with the Microware operating system OS-9 for MIDI operation rather than anything available on the IBM or Apple. Present also were the Glenside Gurus of MIDI are Mike Knudsen who wrote and maintains UltiMuse music program and Brian Schubring, the maker of the \$20 CoCo MIDI interface thirty two of which were sold at the fest. The CoCos of both Mike and Brian were housed in MSDOS type boxes with IBM AT type keyboards. This gave Phillip ideas concerning rehousing of a TS2068. The two

MIDI seminars during the two day event were reported to be outstanding!

Member Jeff Decourtney of Albuquerque NM was the recipient of a pair of disk drives and a LarKen interface for his machine. The equipment should be on its way in time to help Jeff recover from recent surgery. Phil and GATOR purchased some of the pieces at the Elgin fest and assembled the dual 5.25" drive pair with power supply at GATOR's home. The connector and wiring from the LarKen interface to the drives is identical to that of the Radio Shack Color Computer, but the CoCo interface is a little lame compared to the LarKen. The CoCo has no side select output. The CoCo can either run four single sided 35 track drives or three double sided 35 track drives. Software can increase the track count to 40. The LarKen and other TS2068 interfaces can run four double sided 80 track drives. This allows the TS2068 to access over 400 programs from connected floppy drives, 448 with the addition of the LarKen RAM disk. Little wonder that CoCo owners craved hard drives for their machines.

Abed continues to plant shrubs and flowers on top of his mountain and come into the house with aches and pains. Read his report in ZXir QLive Alive! news letter. Maybe we should send him a tube of Ben Gay for his aches and pains?

Phillip had an answer for the rubbing off of the lettering on the TS2068 keyboard by covering it with Saran Wrap. It looks like a nice cover up. See the description of the installation in the 1996 spring issue of Nite-Times News.

After the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M., we observed the Saran Wrap install on the TS2068s of both Bobby Muth and Bob Swoger. All members agreed

that the job looked good. GATOR showed us his older TS2068 with keytops protected with clear Krylon. The Kryloned keytops collected dirt and had become hard to read under the dirty Krylon. The Saran Wrap job was definitely superior. The Saran Wrap can be easily replaced if it gets injured.

May 25, 1996

The meeting began at 2:40 P.M. Members present were: Nazir Pashtoon, Bob GATOR Swoger, Larry Sauter, John Donaldson, George Zimmerman.

Our member from Gilberts Illinois, Grant Thomas, W9YAS, passed away May 20th after years of heart trouble. Grant enjoyed his QL and enjoyed the newsletters from all the groups supplied to him through CATUG. When he began having trouble with his QL keyboard, CATUG members saw to it that the machine was put back into working order. We were glad to have Grant as an out-of-town Sinclair friend and member. He is survived by his wife Lilian.

The next issue of UPDATE! will in all likelihood will be the last issue. GATOR and others have tried to influence Frank and Carol Davis into continuing the publishing of UPDATE! Magazine so all of us could enjoy it for many more years. The fact is, GATOR says, is that Frank and Carol have done this work for many years now and are ready for a rest. They wish someone else would pick up the torch and carry on but no one has yet come forward.

John Donaldson brought his recently acquired Z88 to show the group and describe its virtues. It blanks out the screen in order to conserve battery power and is a keystroke away from getting it back right where you left off. It uses ROM and RAM cartridges for program storage and memory use and is up and running in a

mater of seconds. The unit is light and quiet and is nice to use to transcribe notes in the field and is extremely pleasant to use. The Z88 magic book that John purchased to further learn about the machine is worth all the money that you pay for it. The unit uses 4 AA batteries and is sufficient to use for many hours of use. It runs around \$200 while the Toshiba laptop Bob uses at work which does little more than the Z88 runs about \$2000. The Z88 is truly a laptop/portable for people with empty coal buckets at home and therefor cannot afford a Toshiba type machine.

Jeff Decourtney now has his LarKen TS2068 disk drive system up and running. CATUG members assembled and tested the system before sending it to Albuquerque while he recovered from surgery. Jeff told us the space available for his system was small, so we mounted two matching half height 5.25" DSDD drives into a vertical disk drive housing which also contained a power supply. Jeff, not seeing how we had mounted the drives into the case, put the disks in upside down when he first tried the system requiring a phone call to GATOR to find out what had gone wrong. Of course the unpolarized connector on the LarKen interface also caused problems. Fortunately, nothing was injured by the experience.

A discussion was had by us about the virtues of 3.5" drives. Some members of our club said that 3.5" drives were better and some stood by the old venerable 5.25". Some said that after hearing that 3.5" were better, found out after switching that they gave more trouble than the 5.25". GATOR said that he often carries a 3.5" floppy disk in his shirt pocket and when he tried to load a program one day, it would not load. He found out that one of his beard hairs had fallen under the door of the

floppy and, after he blew it out, it loaded fine. Progress marches on.

Larry Sauter, Secretary
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

INPUT/OUTPUT

Abed Kahale writes: Frank Kapel called to remind me about the ZX printer. I found it but I could not locate the transformer. I will send him the printer hoping that he has a transformer.

You asked about the weather here. It has been hot and very dry - drought. All parks and forests are closed in Arizona and the surrounding states because of fire risk. The highest temp. here has been 96, but believe me it feels like 84 to me because it is so dry. The sun is very hot though, I don't work outside between noon and 4 PM. I got the yard completed, just working on a drip irrigation system to water what I planted. Will send pictures soon.

Our monsoons started early this year, I believe. We had more than an inch of rain and the humidity went up all the way to 45%. A badly needed rain in the drought stricken Southwest, to put out the fires too. I discovered that we don't have storm sewers in this area, when it rains hard, the water flows down the streets like a river to creeks, ditches and washes. Because of the mud carried by the water, sewers clog up very fast and it doesn't pay to have them.

Jeff Taylor writes: George still corresponds with a few of the out-of-town users. The core group of TTSUC still gets together every 4 to 6 weeks. Mostly we talk about the computing world in general although each of us has brought in Timex-Sinclair tidbits. Express Rene Bruneau still tinkers

with the ZX-81 and is in contact with a developer in Holland and the old VSUG group. They continue to do amazing things with the ZX-81/TS1000. Regards, Jeff

ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH THE CLUB

NAP_Ware (Nazir A. Pashtoon's new endeavor) announces the availability of all Timex or QL PAL (Programmable Array Logic) chips. If interested, call him evenings on 708-439-1679.

GATOR's TWISTED PAIR

To better inform the Sinclair Community as newsletters and magazines about our computers cease to exist, four 24 Hour a day BBSs are now provided to serve the Sinclair Community. You are encouraged to exchange mail and use the files sections of these boards. Bulletins and ADS are available to all. The MMCC BBS is sponsored by the Motorola MicroComputer Club.

If you know the Internet E-MAIL address of a Sinclair user, but do not have access to Internet, simply address your E-MAIL to GATOR SINCLAIR on the MMCC BBS and include the name and e-mail address of the Sinclair user you wish to reach. Then check the MMCC BBS from time to time if you expect a reply.

You have to register as a first time user. This can be done by contacting the SYSop evenings at 708-837-7957 or calling the BBS. Give your user name. When you register your password should be your first name like JIM THOMAS JIM where the second JIM is your password. On later logins you should change your password. You will be able to do nothing more than register on your first call in unless you contacted the SYSop first.

E-MAIL and BULLETINS are subdivided into conferences. The first level is the MAIN section where everything is general to

the MMCC. [J]oin the TIMEX or QL conference to see SINCLAIR specific E-MAIL and News Items. [B]ulletins will display topics like SINC to see the SINCLAIR sub-board for related topics.

MMCC BBS 847-532-5558
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Q-Box BBS 810-254-9878
Utica, Michigan

SCC BBS 305-945-8274
Miami, Florida

SOL BBS 520-882-0388
Tucson, Arizona

Bob Swoger, SYSop ----GATOR----
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

BUS STOP

----- "Darwin Award" Nominee

You may know about the Darwin Awards, an annual honor given to the person who did the gene pool the biggest service by killing himself or herself in the most extraordinarily stupid way. Last year's winner was killed by a Coke machine which toppled over him while he was attempting to tip a free soda out of it.

And this year's nominee is:

The Arizona Highway Patrol discovered a pile of smoldering metal embedded in a hillside beside a desert road.

Apparently an Arizona man acquired a JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off - actually a solid fuel rocket) that is used to give heavy military transport planes an extra push for taking off from short airfields.

The man had attached the JATO to a 1967 Chevy Impala and engaged the device on a long stretch of desert highway.

According to the Arizona Highway Patrol, the man ignited

the JATO about 3.0 miles from the crash site. The JATO would have reached maximum thrust within 5 seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20 to 25 seconds. The driver, soon to be pilot, most likely would have experienced G forces usually reserved for dog fighting F14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become insignificant for the remainder of the event.

The automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15 to 20) seconds before the driver applied and completely melted the brakes, blowing the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the hillside at a height of 125 feet leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock.

ARTICLES

DID YOU KNOW PART 2

by
Bob Swoger

Les Cotrell's article DID YOU KNOW? in ZQA! Volume 3 Issue 3 informed us that Mscript files could be loaded into TASWORD and TASWORD files could be loaded into MSCRIPT provided they did not contain printer control codes. The way to accomplish these conversions involved quite a bit of extra work on the users part once these files were loaded into the word processors.

AN EASIER WAY

There has been an easier way to accomplish this conversion available for over a decade now. Because not all TS2068 users felt the need to move

files over the telephone lines, the ability to convert text files between MSCRIPT and TASWORD was not known by all. Being a modem user from the moment the WESTRIDGE WD2050 became available from ANCHOR, I acquired Kurt Casby's MTERM II enhancement ensemble LOADER V to allow the transfer of files between the clubs DEC PDP 11/60 mini computer and my TS2068. It was at this moment that I discovered that LOADER V could convert TASWORD files to MSCRIPT and MSCRIPT files back to TASWORD.

ABOUT LOADER V

LOADER V is actually five different software modules to permit XMODEM file transfer of TASWORD files to and from host computers other than TS2068s. Because Kurt's intended use of LOADER V was to provide the MTERM II user with a way to upload and download TASWORD TWO files, little was made of the fact that he was also giving us a way to convert one type of file to another.

MTERM AND MSCRIPT RELATED

Many people thought that someone working for ZEBRA was the originator of MSCRIPT. Indeed, that is where I purchased my first copy. Unfortunately, I was unable to get my copy to work. Others thought it was Jack Dohany. Jack sent me my first working copy of MSCRIPT. Actually, the original author was Steve Pagliarulo of Micro-Systems Software, Inc., presently located in West Palm Beech, Florida. He also wrote MTERM II for Anchor. This may be why MTERM II and MSCRIPT are compatible and, I might add, so robust. Steve still refuses to release his Sinclair software to the public domain to this day. Micro-Systems Software more recently published PLATINUM SCRIBBLE and other word processors for the AMIGA platform.

MSCRIPT TO TASWORD

The easiest way to convert an MSCRIPT file into a TASWORD file is to use UNLOADER from Kurt Casby's LOADER V ensemble. UNLOAD.B1 asks for the name of the MSCRIPT file to convert, then asks you for a name to call the TASWORD file. Let me remind you that MSCRIPT files should end in .Cm and TASWORD files should end in .CT per the LogiCall manual rather than using .CT for both as suggested in Les Cotrell's article and other writings. The end result is a nice clean TASWORD file. Sometimes the MSCRIPT file is a bit long and you are asked for a second name for a second TASWORD file. If the second file is short enough it can be appended to the first file using the TASWORD merge option.

TASWORD TO MSCRIPT

Converting a TASWORD TWO file to an MSCRIPT file is not as straight forward as using UNLOAD.B1. LOADER.BV installs the TASWORD file into the buffer of MTERM starting at address 26710. When the task is done and the user enters MTERM, he notes that there is now data in the MTERM buffer at the main menu. Write down the buffer used information for later use, this is important! What the user didn't realize was that before the TASWORD file was loaded into the MTERM buffer, it was converted to the MSCRIPT format! Now all you have to do to save this MSCRIPT file to disk is exit to BASIC from the MTERM Main Menu and type:

```
RAND USR 100: SAVE "filename.Cm  
" CODE 26710,length
```

Length was reported as buffer used in the MTERM main Menu. You now have a nice clean MSCRIPT file.

This software is available and further enhanced for LogiCall on LarKen formatted disks from both FWD Computing and RMG ENTERPRISES.

DBEasy v1.6 -- A NEW VERSION REVIEW

by Al Feng

Sometimes it takes years to appreciate the many features which a program author has thoughtfully incorporated in an application. DBEasy [Wood and Wind Computing, RR3 Box 92, Cornish, NH 03745] is certainly a well designed program that has rightfully been well received. With the program undergoing an extensive re-writing, it deserves a renewed look.

For those not familiar with DBEasy, it is a front end program for the Archive [Psion] database program which is available either for QDOS/SMSQ (v1.6) or for DOS (v1.3). While there were minor feature differences between the two versions in the past, they now appear to be almost identical in function and operation.

Those not familiar with DBEasy may think that it is simply a menu program for loading and viewing databases. It is more. It is a program for creation and management of any database you may wish to create, use, and maintain (for example, altering/updating fields and maintaining by adding/deleting records).

DATABASE DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

From what I have gleaned over the years, there are two types of databases -- hierarchical and relational. While the hierarchical database came first, most modern databases are now relational. Archive is a relational database with an integrated, procedure based programming language.

Hierarchical databases usually seem "better" to the novice because they are designed with a non-discriminating, "flat" field structure. Essentially each field (or, screen) is a record, and conversely each record is a field, thus allowing any piece of data to be put anywhere in a given record. In essence, a hierarchical database record can be thought of as one in a set of electronic file cards. Thus, to use a hierarchical database, you just name (create) the database file, open it, and then start inputting whatever you desire into any record.

In theory, you could simulate a hierarchical database by creating a single field database within a relational database. In Archive, you would:

```
CREATE "flat" <ENTER> flat$
<ENTER> <ENTER>      After
this, you would use the SEDIT
(i.e., screen edit) function to
create the screen with a single
field essentially taking up as
much of the usable screen as
you wanted; and then, SSAVE
(i.e., screen save) that
screen. You would still OPEN,
SLOAD (i.e., screen load),
ALTER, and CLOSE the database
as you would a normal Archive
database. If you were inspired,
you could EDIT a program to
expedite navigating your "flat"
field database.
```

Because a hierarchical database does not have fields, per se, it is not possible for the user to easily, or consistently manipulate the data of individual records. For example, it would not be easy to use a "flat" field database for printing names and addresses on labels unless the entire contents of each record was comprised of consistently placed names and addresses.

My understanding is that a simple FIND query is not handicapped by searching a hierarchical database.

The HYPERCARD database (APPLE Macintosh) appears to be a hierarchical database which has user linkable elements. The selectively "programmable" links and inherent graphical nature of the database provide an extended versatility not available with a simple, hierarchical database.

Relational databases differ in that the individual fields (text or numeric) must be pre-defined BEFORE data can be input. The need to pre-define the fields can be particularly discouraging for the novice; and, the same novice may wonder why or how relational databases have become so prevalent.

In a relational database, the OUTPUT of various, individual fields can be "manipulated" so that it suits multiple needs; thus, one set of data can be used and output in more than one way with differing fields included-or-excluded in a particular output. The unqualified advantage of a relational database becomes most apparent when you have the opportunity to use a front-end program such as DBEasy. As designed, DBEasy allows you to print:

- 1) the individual record;
- 2) an address label
(if applicable);
- 3) a line of user-specified fields; and/or,
- 4) a "custom" output
(a future article).

The output can be to your printer, the screen, or a file (for import to QUILL, for example) when the request is initiated from the MULTIPLE MENU screen and to the printer only from the SINGLE MENU screen.

THE DESIGN

DBEasy uses a MAIN MENU which allows the user to branch to ten other menus.

In earlier versions you would navigate this screen by pressing a number key (1 to 9) to put the pointer arrow on a given line, or by using the up-or-down cursor key to move the pointer up or down from line to line; and, pressing '0' would provide a fast branching to the exit screen.

With the most current version, the HOT KEYS developed in QLKR are now available for use in DBEasy -- generally, pressing the first letter of the KEY word will move the pointer arrow to the line or option; or, activate the options within the secondary menus. Each version change over the years has made DBEasy more convenient to use; and, I would guess that it only took about five minutes to become comfortable with the new HOT KEY feature.

A welcome change is the increased facility to quick "sWitch" the active database from one to another. A "sWitch" can also be executed from the SINGLE and MULTIPLE MENU as well as from the LOG MENU (the LOG MENU was previously named "Switch mode"). When using the "sWitch" routine, you do not have to type in the entire database name, only enough characters to distinguish one database from another. Thus, when I want to access my "PLATYPUS_dbf" I do need to type in at least "PLAT" since typing in "P" or "PL" or "PLA" will always locate the "PLANNERX_dbf" first. If I were to remove the "PLANNERX_dbf" from the drive, then simply typing "P" would result in DBEasy querying me whether or not "PLATYPUS_dbf" was the one I wanted.

In the past, if you wanted to change the date format at the

top of the MAIN MENU screen, you needed to edit and re-save the DBEMM code. This is now an option which can be done from the main menu. There are now three formats for displaying the date on the MAIN MENU [YYYY/MM/DD, MM/DD/YYYY, & DD/MM/YYYY].

The HELP_dbf file is now available as a HOT KEY from almost any point in the program by simply pressing 'H' <ENTER>.

THE DESIGN IN PRACTICE

All the databases which are CREATED have the same fields -- twelve text fields (date_\$, key_\$, sl_\$, et cetera) and six numeric fields (n1_, n2_, et cetera). While I originally thought this would be limiting, I have found that this is a good compromise for most databases.

In day-to-day use, one of the apparent benefits of using DBEasy is that it eliminates the need for pre-defining the fields of each database. If you don't like the labels, you can change them later.

The "date_\$" field is automatically filled when you INSERT a new database; but, any other text data can be inserted therein. The "date_\$" was automatically updated to the current date in prior versions, but this has been changed with the current version whereby the current version maintains the record's "original" date -- as I generally did NOT want this field changed in the past, I did find the automatic updating of the field disconcerting; so, I'm glad that the newest version of the program keeps this unchanged.

If necessary, the DBEasy program (i.e., DBEMM_pro) can be modified to accommodate more or less fields; or, as demonstrated with the newly incorporated, ADDRESSX_dbf, the specific screen can be

customized (using SEDIT & SSAVE) to accommodate different field_lengths.

Of course, the labels assigned to the fields can be changed at any time; and, a new option lets the user create new databases by "capturing" data from existing DBEasy database files.

When you choose the MULTIPLE MENU you can view up to ten LINES of truncated RECORD data per screen page. In the past, the LINE represented three user selectable FIELDS of data. This has been greatly improved with the current version being capable of displaying at least seven fields of variable length. Each LINE format can be exclusive to a particular database.

THE "CAPTURE" PITFALL?

There is a very small inconvenience that you have to suffer if you are upgrading from a previous version -- the DBELOG_dbf contains different data than in previous versions. Presumably, it is the difference in structure which now allows the user to "capture" data from already logged databases when creating new database files.

It seemed that the only files that did transfer were my VARIOUS_dbf files and the DBEASY_scn that I use!

However, after you get over the shock of not being able to simply the transfer various ancillary files along with your VARIOUS_dbf files you will quickly appreciate the "capture" function; and, the setback is minor compared with the gain.

CUSTOMIZATION AND COSMETIC MODIFICATIONS

You may not have to make any changes to the program to use DBEasy; but, if you do, most customization is now easier, or faster, to implement. Of

course, the single RECORD screen can simply be copied from your previous DBEasy program disk (if it is different from what is provided) -- for example, the colors of my single RECORD screen complement the MAIN MENU colors I had chosen to suit my personal sensibilities.

Okay, as good as DBEasy is, it probably isn't "perfect" for you as it comes out-of-the-box any more than it was for me.

Based on the earlier DBEasy versions, I knew that I would have to "go inside" and modify the print option to add a few "lprint" statements to adjust the printer's vertical spacing for the labels which I currently use (4" x 1 7/16"). Of course, the first thing I had to do was to (esc)ape to Archive's command_line and enter the edit mode and then edit the proc(s) [consult the QL USER GUIDE if you don't know how to do this].

```
proc easy_out_lbl
if ns: print at ml,12;rs;;
endif : let i$=s1_$:
if s2_$<>nul$:
let i$=s2_$+sp$+i$:
endif
lprint : lprint i$: lprint
s3_$: if s4_$<>nul$:
lprint s4_$: endif :
lprint s5_$;" " ;s6_$;
" " ;s7_$: lprint :
lprint : lprint :
lprint tab 15; " " :
if s4_$=nul$: lprint :
endif : let line=6
endproc
```

In addition to adding "lprint" statements, I also omitted the statement which printed field "s9_\$" which is used for "country" since I generally use "s9_\$" for other comments.

All of the remaining changes described here are cosmetic to suit my own sensibilities and do not enhance or improve the operation of the program.

The least significant change I made was to the QUIT page. This

was the easiest to implement since it essentially involved adding a long enough string of periods (".....") to tidy up the appearance.

```
proc quitter
heady;"Quit DBEasy":yorn;0,
  "Quit DBEasy program
  .....": if ans$="n":
start: stop : endif :
yorn;0,"Quit ARCHIVE,
also .....":
if ans$="n": new :
else : quit : endif
endproc
```

After that, there were some other cosmetic changes that I made to the MAIN MENU and LOG MENU because I liked the "look" of the previous versions (at least, the way I had them) better than the current appearance.

The changes to the MAIN MENU were primarily done to the header related procs.

```
proc arrow_mess;l,m$
let i=(80-(36+len(m$)))/2
paper sink
ink spap
print at 1,1;rv$; tab i;
  "Use arrow keys or Hot
  Key to choose "+m$;
  tab 79; print at 1+1,1;
  tab 25; "<ENTER> to
  select or 0 to exit";
  tab 79;rv$;
paper spap
ink sink
endproc
```

Changing the "arrow_mess" tidies up the MAIN MENU box by coloring the related lines to the same color as the outer field. Modifying the "heading" was mostly rearranging the text and the "heady" made the banner the full width of the screen, as on earlier versions.

```
proc heading
heady;nul$: paper hmap:
  ink hink:runtime:
  let j=ans:timey
print at 1,2;upper(sys$);
  "MAIN MENU"; ink sink;
  at 0,36;today$; tab 54;
  "Day ";day; " of ";
```

```
val(date(0)); ink hink;
at 1,37;ans$; tab 54;j;
  "minutes since start"
paper spap: ink sink:
  if begcnt=-1: let i$="-":
  else :
  let i$=str(begcnt,2,zer):
  endif
print at 4,2; ink spap;desc$;
print at 4,52;
  "Module : DBEmm";at 5,52;
  "DEvice : ";pd$; at 6,52;
  "Database : "; sf$
print at 7,52; "Records : ";
  i$
endproc
```

```
proc heady;i$
paper spap: cls : paper hmap:
  ink hink: print at 0,0;
  tab 80; at 1,0; tab 80;
  at 2,0; tab 80; at 1,2;
  i$;: paper spap:
  ink sink: print at 4,0;
endproc
```

Still in a "retro" mode, changes to the LOG MENU were next. The changes to the LOG MENU were done to, you guessed it, log related procs; and again, the changes were made to resemble the appearance of earlier versions.

The simple part was to remove the statement which indicated the "active database" in the "log_menu" procedure by truncating the fifth line.

```
proc log_menu
.....
print at 17,3;"of ";npg;
  tab 79; at 18,1;rv$;
  tab 79;
.....
endproc
```

The real trick was to highlight the active line to echo the previous versions. Of course, the hardest part was to actually find which procedure performed this function! Not surprisingly, it is in the "log_show" procedure. The asterisk ("*") has been replaced with the greater_than sign (">"), but can be eliminated since it is now superfluous for most video configurations.


```

proc log_show;pg
let k=10*(pg-1): position;
  "l",rl,k: let j=5:
  print at j,zer;:usel
while not eof("l") and
  rl<k+10:usel
let i$=desc_$: if len(i$)>33:
  let i$=i$(1 to 33):
  endif : let j$=user_$:
  if len(j$)>10:
  let j$=j$(1 to 10):
  endif : if act_:
  paper sink: ink spap:
  let k$=">": else :
  paper spap: ink sink:
  let k$=nul$: endif
print sp$;rl;k$;
  tab 4;sp$;sd_$;
  tab 5+dl;sp$;sf_$;
  tab 23;sp$;i$;
  tab 58;date_$; tab 68;j$
tab 80: ink sink: paper spap:
  let j=j+1:plnext: endwhile
box;j,zer,14,80,nul$: let j=16
paper spap: ink sink
print at j,6;pg;" ";
endproc

```

After you make each change, you will want to see if it either looks right, or "works" the way you want it to. Of course, you will also want to save it to a working copy of the program by inputting:

save object "DBEmm" <ENTER>

I made the same changes for both the QDOS and the PC version of the program. In each case, you will want to compare and insert/change lines to match what you see listed. After you have made changes, you can further modify the procedures to fit your sensibilities instead of mine.

GUI -- PHOOEY!

There are alternatives to Archive (more so for the DOS world).

The essential thing to know is that DBEasy is NOT handicapped by being tied to a text-based program. Now, I realize that a LOT of people LIKE using a mouse -- you know, trying to

move the pointer to a viable spot on the screen as if it were a game; but, I'm not one of them.

In day-to-day use, you only need the cursor keys and ENTER key, or a mouse, to navigate the program.

Generally, the only time you need to use the alphanumeric keys is when creating/deleting a new/old database, or when making changes within an existing database.

If there are some situations when you need a secure environment, then a copy of DBEasy running on a QL without a keyboard (of course, with a pointer input device) would probably be more secure from tampering than a GUI database which would probably remain vulnerable to change or removal.

THE BOTTOM LINE

If you aren't using Archive, yet, then you should consider getting a copy of DBEasy since it will make using a D(ata)B(ase)Easy.

Because I come from a long line of read-the-instructions-last people there are certainly features and functions which I have failed to discuss adequately (or, at all) because I probably have not used them, yet. For those who like to read, there is an extensive DBEASY_doc which is obviously a good reference tool for using DBEasy, too.

The QL disk contains an XCHANGE compatible version. Other than to say that the XCHANGE version is smaller than the "normal" version, I cannot indicate what the difference is. The "normal" QL and PC versions are essentially the same.

An additional "_dbf" file is now included (PLANNERX_dbf)

which can be used as a daily planner.

Unlike PC users who currently do not have access to Archive, DBEasy is reason enough to use Archive, and would be reason enough for database users to use a QL or QXL as their hardware platform.

Before I started to use DBEasy, I would use the back pages of my check book register for names and addresses! At the time, it just seemed to me that with less than 50 names and phone_numbers of various sorts that it was far easier transcribing those names (as needed) than to learn to use Archive. Were it not for DBEasy, I am certain that I would still not be using the Archive program, or any database program for that matter.

If you are using a previous version of DBEasy, I am sure that you will not regret upgrading to the newest version. The HOT KEYS, alone, make it worth the effort to transfer files and make whatever changes need to be made.

New users need to know that DBEasy is both EASY to use and EASY to modify if need be; that, "sample" databases are included that can be amended with your own data; and, that your QL requires memory expansion beyond 128K to run DBEasy.

The DBEasy program costs \$24.00 (NA); upgrades cost \$7.00 (NA).

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- 112 & 113 & 114) Adventure C (Softsync) 16K no docs
- 115 & 116) Alien Invasion (Softsync) 16K no docs
- 118) Artist Games Tape 2 (Melbourne House) 16K docs
- 119 & 120) Catacombs Games Tape 3 (Melb House) 16K docs
- 122) Championship Chess (SoftSync) 16K Docs
- 125) Financial Manager & Record Keeper (Softsync) 16K docs
- 126 & 121) Flight Simulator (Timex) 16K docs
- 129) HOT-Z II 16K and 64K no docs
- 130) HOT-Z II 16K only no docs
- 131) Machine Code Test Tool 16K no docs
- 132) Master Scribe Set Of 5 Cassettes no docs
- 134) "MTERM" Communication Program no docs
- 135 & 136 & 137) Night Gunner (Softsync) 16K docs
- 139 & 140) PRO/FILE Thomas B Woods) 16K no docs
- 141 & 142) Pyramid Games Tape 2 (Melbourne House) 16K no Docs
- 143) Quest For Holy Grail & Elusive Mr. Big (Softsync) 16K docs
- 148) Starfighter Games Tape 2 (Melbourne House) 16K Docs
- 152) ZX Assembler no docs
- 155) Unknown Programs Sent From Australia no docs
- 157) Delphic Enterprises 4K programming utilities docs
- 158) The Check manager, 16K RAM, no docs
- 159) 8K/16K Disassembler "DAI" Martin Irons, no docs
- 163) Monitor and C Boat Strad. No docs

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